

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Read channel circuit 105 communicates data and control information with the surface of disk 126. Control information such as servo control data, phase lock oscillator synchronization patterns, and servo bursts are encoded into portions of disk 126. This information is provided through read channel circuit 105 to system processor 113. System processor 113 uses this information to compute commands for servo control 108. The read/write head [[126]] 128 comprises an MR head that is used to both record user data to and read user data back from the disk 126. Analog electrical signals that are generated by the head 128 in response to the magnetic signals recorded on the disk 126 are amplified to a level more useful for further processing by the circuitry 105 by a preamplifier 110 prior to delivery to read channel circuitry 105.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The disk 126 may have a surface that includes particles, defects, and other physical irregularities that can cause temporary or repeating thermal asperity events. The defects may take many forms but when collisions occur with the MR head [[126]] 128 (or increase the cooling effect experienced by the MR head [[126]] 128) the temperature of the head [[126]] 128 increases (or decreases), which results in a rapid change in its resistance that causes a quick change or transient in the analog electrical signal output by the head [[126]] 128 to the preamplifier 110.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] In this regard, a thermal asperity transient correction circuit 211 is provided downstream of the reader input gain stage 220 to detect transients and to filter the read head signal 214 based on the detected transients. The thermal asperity correction circuit 211 comprises generally a filter controller 240 that functions to

receive a controller input signal 242 which as shown is the output of the reader input gain stage 220 or input to the dynamic transient filter 230. In other embodiments, the controller input 242 is taken as the output of the filter 230. The filter controller 240 processes the controller input 242 to detect a thermal asperity transient in the read head signal 214. In response, the filter controller 240 generates a control signal [[244]] 294 to control operation of a dynamic transient filter 230.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The dynamic transient filter 230 is connected in series with and positioned between the reader input gain stage 220 and a reader output buffer 250. The reader output buffer 250 generates filtered read head signals 260, which are typically transmitted to a read/write channel or read/write controller for further processing. The transient filter 230 is dynamic in time as it filters the output of the reader input gain stage 220 in an ongoing fashion based on the control signals [[244]] 294 generated by the filter controller 240. The transient filter 230 is also dynamic in the amount of filtering it performs based on the control signal [[244]] 294. While the specific configuration of the filter controller 240 and the dynamic transient filter 230 may vary significantly to practice the invention, it may be useful in fully understanding the invention to provide at least one more particular embodiment of a preamplifier configured according to the invention.